



National Interagency Fire Center

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May 9, 2006

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs
From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
Subject: Type 3 Incident Management Organizations

The efficient use of local fire suppression resources and the establishment of local Type 3 Incident Management Organizations (IMOs) is an important means to enhance initial and extended attack capabilities. In response to recommendations of numerous wildland fire cost-containment initiatives, federal agencies, in coordination with state and local partners, will seek to facilitate the establishment and perpetuation of locally-based Type 3 IMOs in those areas where it is appropriate and feasible. Implementation Action 1c (1) from the Implementation Plan for “Advancing Wildland Training for Firefighters” (NASF, et al., 2006) focuses specifically on locally-based Type 3 organizations: “Establish a baseline national inventory, by Geographic Area, of existing Type 3 IMOs”.

We are requesting your assistance in providing information regarding Type 3 IMOs within your Geographic Area. Information in the attachment will provide the specific guidelines pertinent to this request.

Geographic Areas are asked to estimate the number of Type 3 IMOs by assessing:

- The number of established local Type 3 Organizations within your Geographic Area that are available to respond to wildland fire incidents.
- The number of ad-hoc Type 3 Organizations that can be mobilized in your Geographic Area that are available to respond to wildland fire incidents.
- Their location, as defined by the organization’s origin of dispatch and typical response area.

It is acknowledged that Type 3 IMOs are difficult to quantify, by virtue of their organizational structure in most localities. In some areas, these organizations are established, highly organized and stable in their composition and membership, while in other areas they are largely ad hoc assemblages. Recognizing these factors, parameters are provided here to assist GACCs in formulating this estimate.

Replies are due by June 9, 2006. Forward any questions you may have, as well as requested responses to: Rural_Fire_Assistance@nifc.blm.gov

Thank you for your assistance.

/s/ Tom Boatner
Chair, NMAC

Attachment
Appendix 1 (3pp)

Geographic Area Type 3 Organizations

Using the NWCG standard for Type 3 Organizations established by the Incident and Operations Working Team (IOSWT), as well as parameters provided in this memorandum, all GACCs are requested to determine an estimation of current Type 3 capacity across the country.

Standardized Requirements for Type 3 Incident Management Organizations

In response to direction given by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council's report *Strategic Issues Panel on Fire Suppression Costs*, NWCG tasked the IOSWT to develop standardized requirements for Type 3 Teams.

Six assumptions or guiding principles were adopted to facilitate the development of these requirements. They were:

1. Emphasis on the development of Type 3 complexity incident management organization capability rather than incident management teams.
2. Emphasizing flexibility in organizational structure in order to utilize local capabilities and meet local needs.
3. Establishing minimum standards and qualifications for Type 3 complexity incident management organizations functional areas.
4. Emphasizing the ability of the Incident Management System (ICS) to expand and contract based on incident complexity and need while maintaining span of control.
5. Emphasizing the Type 3 complexity organizational structures may differ in response to local needs.
6. Utilizing the already existing charts for Type 3 complexity organization functional areas found in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* and the Extended Attack Chart found in the *Fireline Handbook*.

The IOSWT identified functional responsibilities within a Type 3 complexity organization, but does **not** recommend a national minimum Type 3 Incident Management Team structure. This allows maximum flexibility for local agencies to form Type 3 complexity organizations from local qualified and available personnel but does not limit local agencies from establishing standing Type 3 organizations if they choose.*

*(*Consolidated Issue Paper*, Incident and Operations Standards Working Team, May 2005

The following chart, illustrates minimum qualifications required for individuals performing Type 3 complexity functions, as prescribed by the IOSWT:

Table 3: Type 3 Organization Minimum Qualifications*

Type 3 Functional Responsibility	Specific NWCG or Equivalent Qualification Standards Required to Perform ICS Functions at Type 3 Level.
Incident Command	Incident Commander Type 3
Safety	Safety Officer, Line
Information	Public Information Officer
Operations	Strike Team Leader or Task Force Leader
Division (geographic portion of line)	Single Resource Boss
Aviation	Appropriate aviation management level
Logistics	Local entities establish level of skill needed to perform in function (food, sleep, sanitation etc.)
Planning	Local entities establish level of skill needed to perform in function (IAP, maps etc.)
Finance	Local entities establish level of skill needed to perform in function (timekeeping, contracts, agreements etc.)

*Excerpt from *Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations*, Chapter 11, pages 11-4, Fire and Fire Aviation Operations Task Group, National Interagency Fire Center. January, 2006.

Specific discussion of Type 3 incident command, Type 3 incident characteristics, functional responsibilities, and qualifications standards required are found in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations*, Chapter 11, pages 11-4 (Fire and Fire Aviation Operations Task Group, National Interagency Fire Center. January, 2006). Type 3 Incidents must be managed by a qualified Type 3 Incident Commander (ICT3). ICT3s must meet NWCG or equivalent qualifications standards.

Please note that **Local Type 3 IMOs are separate and distinct from Department of Homeland Security “Type 3 IMTs”**. A Type 3 IMT is a standing team of trained personnel from different departments, organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions within a state or DHS Urban Area Security Initiative region, activated to support incident management at major or complex emergency incidents or special events that extend beyond one operational period. **Type 3 IMOs may be organized cadres responding to all-hazard incidents, but they are locally situated work groups responding to Type 3 complexity wildland fire incidents within their immediate area, and can be comprised of federal, state, and local firefighters, including volunteer departments.**

The results of this survey will assist in determination of:

- Geographic gaps in Type 3 organizational capacity.

- The most effective means to prioritize and leverage Rural Fire Assistance (RFA), Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA), Ready-Reserve, and other fire service funding opportunities.
- Determination of the efficiency and cost-benefit of state and federal efforts in building Type 3 IMO capacity.

It is important to note that with needed technical support and financial assistance, Type 3 IMOs can be formed in many areas that currently lack them; some regions have the personnel, infrastructure and resources to facilitate the formation of Type 3 IMOs. However, these organizations are not appropriate or practical other areas. Small, dispersed community populations with poor social cohesion and insufficient infrastructure may have difficulty forming IMOs.